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Agenda item 105

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Fiji, France, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Senegal, Thailand and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Progress made and problems encountered in the struggle against illiteracy: a mid-decade review

Cooperation to achieve education for all

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognized as inalienable the right of every individual to education,

Recalling also its resolutions 42/104 of 7 December 1987, by which it proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year, and 44/127 of 15 December 1989 and 46/93 of 16 December 1991, in which it called for continuing international efforts to promote literacy,

Recalling further its resolution 45/126 of 14 December 1990, in which it called for strengthening efforts towards the elimination of illiteracy of women of all ages,

Mindful of the fact that the eradication of illiteracy is one of the paramount objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,

Convinced that literacy, especially functional literacy and adequate education, represents an indispensable element for the development and harnessing of science, technology and human resources for economic and social progress,

Confident that International Literacy Year and the World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990, resulted in increased awareness and support for literacy efforts and became a turning-point in the struggle for a literate world,

Underlining the importance of maintaining the momentum generated by the Year and the spirit of partnership forged at the Jomtien Conference,

Welcoming the setting up of the International Consultative Forum on Education for All entrusted with the task of monitoring the progress towards education for all and promoting consultation and cooperation at the global level,

Recognizing that despite the significant advances registered in the growth of literacy rates in many parts of the world major problems still persist which require greater mobilization of efforts at both national and international levels to achieve the goal of education for all,

Stressing the importance of the effective implementation of the World Declaration on Education for All and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Plan of Action for the Eradication of Illiteracy by the Year 2000 1/ as well as the relevant commitments and recommendations to promote literacy contained, inter alia, in the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, 2/ the Cairo Programme of Action on Population and Development, 3/ the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action for Social Development, 4/ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on the advancement of women 5/ and the Delhi Declaration of the Education for All Summit of the Nine High-Population Countries, 6/

1/ See UNESCO, Records of the General Conference, Twenty-fifth Session, vol. I, Resolutions, p. 71.

2/ See document A/45/625.

3/ A/CONF.171/13.

4/ See A/CONF.166/9.

5/ See A/CONF.177/20.

6/ A/CONF.166/PC.20/Add.13, annex II.

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made and problems encountered in the struggle against illiteracy: a mid-decade review; 7/

2. Notes with appreciation the close collaboration and commendable work being pursued as a follow-up to the International Literacy Year and the World Conference on Education for All by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme;

3. Commends those Governments which have launched national literacy programmes and attained notable progress in meeting the objectives of International Literacy Year and those set forth in the World Declaration on Education for All;

4. Invites Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to further intensify their efforts to effectively implement the World Declaration on Education for all, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Plan of Action for the Eradication of Illiteracy by the Year 2000 1/ as well as the relevant commitments and recommendations to promote literacy contained, inter alia, in the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, 2/ the Cairo Programme of Action on Population and Development, 3/ the Copenhagen Declaration and programme of Action on Social Development, 4/ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on the advancement of women, 5/ and the Delhi Declaration of the Education for All Summit of the Nine High-Population Countries, 6/ with a view to better coordinating their activities and increasing their contribution to development;

5. Appeals anew to Governments, economic and financial organizations and institutions, both national and international, to lend greater financial and material support to the efforts to increase literacy and achieve education for all;

6. Calls upon the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue assuming the role of lead organization in ensuring an effective follow-up to International Literacy Year and the World Conference on Education for All;

7. Notes with satisfaction the firm commitment and active involvement of many non-governmental organizations, the mass media and the private sector in support of and follow-up to International Literacy Year;

8. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, in 1997, through the Economic and Social Council, a progress report on the implementation process

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7/ A/50/181.

of the education for all objectives, including the recommendations of the International Consultative Forum on Education for All;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the question of cooperation towards education for all under the item on social development.